

COSTA RICA

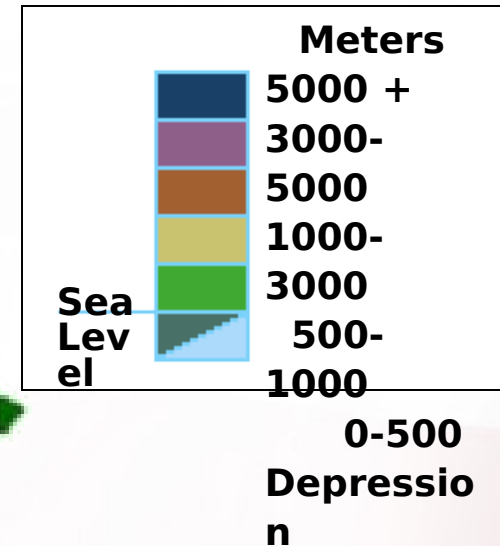


- Medium income nation
- Developing economy
 - Largely agricultural
- Strong democratic tradition



Costa Rica: Environmental Issues

- Topography
- Climate



Tropical and subtropical; dry season (December to April); rainy season (May to November); cooler in highlands

Coastal plains separated by rugged mountains

lowest point: Pacific Ocean 0 m

Costa Rica: Environmental Issues

- Industries
 - Agriculture
- Water
 - Surface water contaminated with raw sewage, industrial wastes, and runoff
 - Beaches fecal contamination
 - Beaches and other surface waters have fuel spills

Costa Rica: Environmental Issues

- Food
 - Fecal contamination due to raw sewage used as fertilizer
 - Contaminated shellfish caused by algal toxins, sometimes seen as red tides
- Air
 - Localized pollution near urban and industrial centers
- Soil
 - Localized contamination near industry and waste disposal sites
 - DDT likely in agricultural and malaria control areas

Costa Rica: Environmental Issues

- Greatest short-term environmental health risks
 - Water and food contaminated with raw sewage or runoff
- Greatest long-term environmental health risks
 - Urban air pollution especially in San Jose

Costa Rica: Diseases of Operational Importance

- Intermediate-risk country
- Diseases of greatest risk
 - Food and Waterborne: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A
 - Vector-borne: dengue fever, malaria

Costa Rica: Diseases of Operational Importance

- Diseases of potential risk
 - Food and Waterborne: brucellosis, protozoal diarrhea, typhoid/paratyphoid fever
 - Vector-borne: Chagas disease, leishmaniasis, murine typhus, tickborne rickettsioses
 - Sexually transmitted: gonorrhea/chlamydia, hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS
 - Water contact: leptospirosis
 - Respiratory: tuberculosis
 - Animal contact: rabies